

SCR 3 (DeSaulnier)
As Introduced December 1, 2009
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
Fact Sheet

SUMMARY

SCR 3 would propose that the people of the State of California vote at the next statewide general election on the question of whether to call a convention to revise the California Constitution.

BACKGROUND

According to the California Constitution, the Legislature must vote by two-thirds to place the question on the ballot at the next statewide general election. If a majority of Californians votes yes on the question, the Legislature has six months within which to prepare for the convention.

A constitutional convention has not been called since 1878, at which time the state's population amounted to less than 1 million people. Today, California stands as the eighth largest economy in the world with a population of nearly 40 million.

By comparison—Illinois, Hawaii and Connecticut put the question of a constitutional convention to vote every 10 to 20 years.

California's Constitution, originally written in the 1800's, is now a "Winchester House" of propositions and initiatives, cobbled together in a piecemeal manner. It is not a coherent, effective model document any longer.

From 1879 to the mid-90's CA ranked 1st in the nation in proposed constitutional amendments (812) & 2nd in adopted ones (485), averaging 4.29 amendments a year.

THIS BILL

SCR 3 would propose to the people of California the question as to whether the voters are for or against the calling of a convention for the purpose of revising the State Constitution.

A Constitutional Convention would allow for broad reform of state government to be decided by the people of California instead of special interests who have the money to put initiatives on the ballot to change the Constitution.

STATUS

Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee

SUPPORT

None on File.

OPPOSITION

None on File.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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